



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

750 COUNTERFEIT DVD MOVIES SEIZED FROM INBOUND PASSENGER AT DETROIT AIRPORT

Motion picture industry loses billions annually in lost revenue from this type of counterfeiting

DETROIT – An Oklahoma man arraigned today in U.S. District Court here was charged with attempting to smuggle counterfeit DVDs into the U.S. following an investigation by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Thian Hor Teh, 51, a United States citizen born in Malaysia, was detained at Detroit Metropolitan Airport after he arrived from Japan via Manila, Philippines in September. A secondary examination conducted by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) inspectors and ICE agents revealed boxes containing 756 counterfeit digital video discs (DVDs) and labels. The DVDs contained movies that had not yet been released in the U.S. at the time of Teh's initial apprehension.

Following the investigation, ICE agents arrested Teh at his residence in Edmond, Okla. March 31. He was charged today with violating 18 United States Code 545, Smuggling goods into the United States.

ICE agents analyzed the DVDs with the assistance of the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA). It was determined that the seized DVDs were of excellent quality and could pass at many video retail stores. The MPAA has closely tracked the negative economic effects caused by counterfeiting on intellectual property worldwide. The MPAA estimates that the U.S. motion picture industry loses more than \$3.5 billion annually in potential revenue worldwide to piracy.

"Investigating those who smuggle pirated or counterfeit merchandise is an important role for our ICE office," said Detroit Special Agent-in-Charge Brian M. Moskowitz. "Counterfeiters cost legitimate businesses billions in lost revenue. The illicit proceeds from this counterfeiting are routinely used to support other criminal activities in the U.S. and around the world." Moskowitz heads the ICE Office of Investigations for the states of Michigan and Ohio.

Jeanine Jones, Assistant U.S. Attorney, Eastern District of Michigan, is prosecuting this case.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.